

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2010, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Andrew Lewis, Joshua Marshall, Merri Ann Osborne, Marty Penner, Mike Peters, Mica Powers, Arthur Shwab, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners Absent: Keith Toussaint

SOCR Staff Present: Julie Nelson, Felicia Yearwood

Guest Speaker: Joel Ngugi

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. time by Roslyn Solomon

Approval of Minutes: September, 2010 minutes were approved as read

Guest Speaker:

- Professor Ngugi discussed the origin of human rights, the four fundamental freedoms, the content of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the possibility of building a human rights assessment tool.
- Professor Ngugi distributed materials that illustrated the concepts
- No human rights assessment tools exist for government entities, to the Professor's knowledge, although there are tools used by businesses. The SHRC tool would be a first of its kind.
- The assessment tool should focus on structural violence that marginalizes and disempowers groups, by identifying the human rights issue at stake and analyzing the ultimate outcome – that is, who benefits and who is harmed.

SOCR report

Update on the Mayor's proposed budget:

- The four commissions currently staffed by SOCR will be staffed by one person
- Loss of the paralegal position will result in longer case processing time
- The ADA coordinator role has been divided between Nolan Lim and Jacque Larrainzar
- Discretionary funding has been eliminated
- The immigrant and refugee initiative will shift from the Department of Neighborhoods to SOCR

City council will adopt the 2011-2012 budget by November 22nd.

SHRC Business

The four commissions sent a letter to city council members asking for restoration of funds to SOCR. The co-chairs will meet individually with council members in the weeks to come. Other organizations also have written letters in support. Council Member Jean Godden will host a public hearing on the budget at South Seattle Community College on Wednesday, October 13th 5:30 p.m.

- Public Safety Taskforce:

Chris Stearns has met with Mayor McGinn, Chief Diaz, Council Members Burgess and Harrell, and Native American groups, and has offered testimony at the City Council's Energy, Technology, and Civil Rights Committee meeting regarding the shooting of John T. Williams. The Police Department is open to RSJI and cultural training and greater civilian participation in firearms review panel work.

Merri Ann Osborne, Chris Stearns, Arthur Shwab attended the NACOLE Conference, where forty cities were represented. The commission should continue to analyze alternative methods of oversight and perhaps conduct a needs assessment.

- Education Taskforce:

McKinney Vento Summit is scheduled for October 13, 2010, 8:00 a.m. until noon. Merri Ann Osborne and Joshua Marshall will attend.

- Bylaws:

Draft amended bylaws were distributed. Discussion and possible vote at next meeting.

MOTION: To ratify a resolution in honor of Roberto Maestas. **PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.